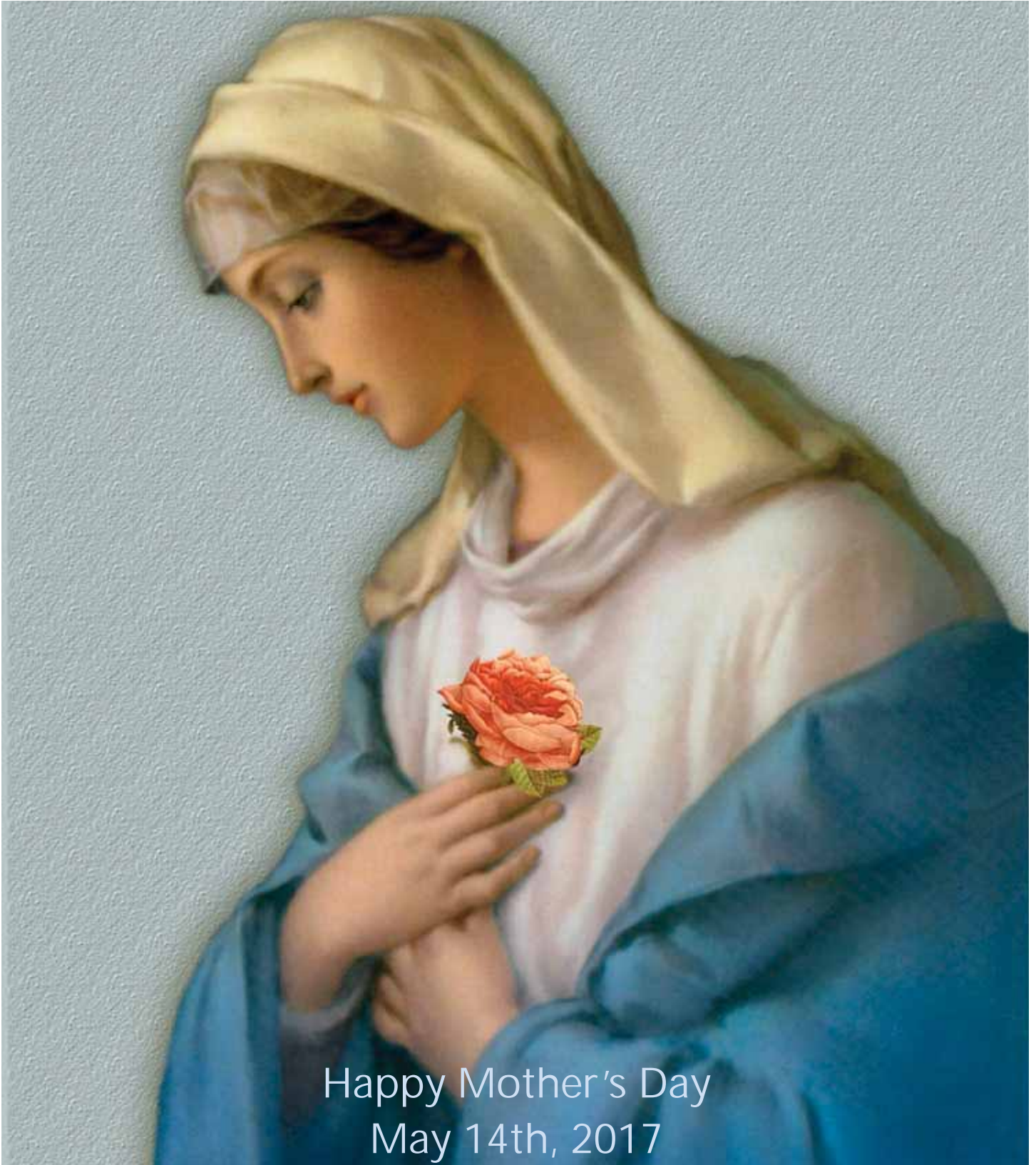


St. Mary, Mother of God Church

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
Roman Catholic Church
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229



Happy Mother's Day
May 14th, 2017

From the Pastor's Desk



Since it is a special day for all mothers this week, I'd like to share with you a letter of a mother to her children to know what is in the heart of a mother when it comes to her children and why a mother deserves to be recognized as equally of a father. The letter goes this way:

My dearest little ones,

I am writing you this letter because there is so much that I want to say to you. I have tried to say it in person, but the words never seem to come out right. Life is hard. It is an ever winding road with twists and turns. There are speed bumps and potholes along the way, but I want you to be prepared. I want you to be sure that you have everything you in need in life. I am doing my best to provide you with that, but there are some things that I have come to realize that you will have to find for yourself. I can only tell you about them.

LOVE and AFFECTION - *I loved each one of you from the very first time that I realized that I was carrying you in my womb. My heart filled with joy at each beat and kick. Then you were born. I used to hold you in my arms and rock you to sleep while singing whatever sweet tune filled my heart. I have tried to show you, with every breath, how much you mean to me. I have tried to give you affection and attention every day of your lives.*

EDUCATION IS KEY - *As you grew older, I sent you off to school. I prayed that whatever you learned in those classrooms, you would bring home and share with me so that I might be able to help you. I sat with you through hours of homework – even when it was stuff that I did not fully understand myself. I tried to work it out with you. I would sit and stare at your textbooks when you were not around so I could figure out every little detail of what you were having trouble with because I wanted to be able to take part in your learning process.*

PROBLEMS IN LIFE - *I have never been the best in problem solving. I have never been one that would stand up for myself when I should have. I let my problems get me down, but I have tried to teach each of you to be different from me. I want you to be strong, independent and confident. I want you to be better and bolder than I ever could have been. That way, when problems come into your life, you will be able to handle them with honor and decency. I want that for you.*

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS - *Whatever inspires you in life, go for it. Don't let anyone tell you that you cannot reach your stars. If they were unreachable, they would not be yours. Just please be realistic about your hopes and dreams. Don't aspire to be a singer if you can't carry a tune. Your dreams are not going to fall into your lap. You will have to work hard to achieve them, but don't give up. Don't lose faith in yourself. Whatever it is that you want in life, you can have. You just have to believe that you are worthy to have it and don't be afraid to go after it.*

LOVE and HAPPINESS - *I wish nothing but love and peace in your lives. I know that they will not always come, but know that it is possible. When you are old enough to find someone in life that you want to share all of your hope and dreams, failure and successes, laughter and tears, hold onto them. True love is fading away in this world. If fate leads you to it, don't be afraid to take it and hold onto it.*

TAKE IT WITH A GRAIN OF SALT - *There will always be someone in life that will treat you wrong. Take it with a grain of salt. It may leave a bitter taste in your mouth, but you can always spit it out later. Don't let anger and hatred take you to places that you don't want to go. If you fill yourself with these negative emotions, then you leave little or no room for anything positive.*

REMEMBER THAT MOMMY LOVES YOU - *Whatever and wherever you go in life, remember that your mother loves you. If there was one thing that I could do in life to shield anyone of you from one day's harm, I would do it without hesitation. I would lay down my life just to make you smile, if that's what it would take. I have struggled and sacrificed every day just to keep you happy and safe, and if I were able to go back and start my life again, I would not change a thing. I would gladly do it all over again for you. You are my reasons for getting up in the morning. You are the reasons why I try so hard in life. Without you, I would have no one to love. I just hope that you love at least a little.*

Well, that is all that I have to say for now. I hope that you read my words and know that you are loved. I hope that the joys you have given me in life may come back to you tenfold, and the sorrows that I have faced never come to you. These words are from my heart to yours. Take them and keep them in a special place inside of you.

Love always—your mother.

With this letter, I hope you appreciate your mother for everything she has done for you—the love, care and sacrifices. Whether living or deceased, she deserves to be truly recognized for the many great things she has done for you.

To all mothers, we give our honor and gratitude forever. May God continue to bless you all!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!



Religious Education

Congratulations to our first communicants this year. They had their first communion last Sunday at the 11:00 A.M. mass with their parents, family and friends present. We had sixteen children and they are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Leah Clark | 9. David Kristine |
| 2. Morgan Cromer | 10. Zachary Showers |
| 3. Lidia DeMeno | 11. Mckenna Smock |
| 4. Nicholas Giallombardo | 12. Jessica Temoshenko |
| 5. Mallorie Giori | 13. John Temoshenko |
| 6. Niccia Hernandez-Libengood | 14. Natalie Wallisch |
| 7. Mary Huth | 15. Max Zigo |
| 8. Abigail Koharchik | 16. Nicolette Zollinger |



“May the Lord Smile on You and be Gracious to You”



The story of Fátima can only be understood through the story of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three Little Shepherds: Lúcia, Francisco and Jacinta. The first apparition took place on the 13th of May, 1917, and was followed by an apparition on the 13th of the six following months. The only exception was August: the seers had been taken to Ourém by the head of the local government and, as such, the apparition occurred on the 15th of August. Our Lady asked the children to pray the Rosary every day.

Message of Fátima - The “Lady brighter than the sun” brought a message of prayer and penance to the world in Fátima. She spoke of sin, the poor sinners, the offences against God and appealed for daily prayer and sacrifice. But it is also a message of hope, illuminated by the invitation to conversion, leading to the Gospel. The appeals made by Our Lady are for prayer, sacrifice and conversion. The specific requests are based on saying the rosary every day, going to communion and confession on the five first Saturdays (in a row) and consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Baptized in Christ

Congratulations to the proud parents, Terence and Nicole Stell on the baptism of their daughter, Madelynn Marie. She is a child of God, heir to the Kingdom!



Calendar of Events

- May 18th RCIA - 6:30 P.M. - Conference Center (Final Class)
- May 20th/21st Donut & Beverage Social (after all weekend masses)
- May 21st Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass; Baptisms - "Giallombardo" & "McKernan" - 12:15 P.M.
- May 25th Holyday - The Ascension of the Lord—Masses at 8:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.; Parish Office Closed
- May 28th Baccalaureate Mass - 8:30 A.M. followed by a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
- Choir Practice - 9:45—10:45 A.M.; 11:00 A.M. Mass
- May 29th Memorial Day - Parish Office Closed

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Diocesan Lenten Appeal



- Diocesan Target - \$43,279.00
- Parish Target - \$68,279.00
- Pledges to Date - \$91,733.00
- Pledges Paid to Date - \$66,756.60
- Number of Donors - 289
- Diocesan Target Achieved!
- Parish Goal Achieved!

thank you!



Your DLA \$\$\$ at Work - Please excuse our appearance for the next eight weeks. You will be seeing a forklift, ladders, painters and paint as we begin our DLA project—repainting our steeple. Also, this past week, OMNI Electric was here replacing the electrical panels in the church with new ones. *We would not be able to complete these projects if it wasn't for the generosity of you, our parishioners!*



Donut & Beverage Social

Next weekend
After all Masses



Today's one-time second collection is for the Trinity Dome, approved by the Bishops of the United States. If you forgot your envelope, additional ones are located at all the church entrances. Your prayerful and financial support will not only adorn this "Crowning Jewel" but will also leave a lasting legacy for generations to come. Thank you!



A free bus trip for WWII Era and Korean War Era Veterans to visit their Memorials in Washington, DC, will be held on Thursday, May 18th.

This is a one day trip leaving early morning and returning approximately 10:00 P.M. Departure points are Beaver, North Hills, Greentree and Monroeville. Box lunch, dinner, snacks and drinks are included. There will be a registered nurse on each bus. Wheelchairs are provided upon request. **Seating is reserved for Veterans only. No seating available for spouses, family or friends.** For more information or to make a reservation, call 724-709-3614. The Veterans Bus Trips are funded solely through donations and are gratefully accepted. If you want to make a donation, make checks payable to WWII Memorial Bus Trip and mail to: Wesbanco Bank, 701 Corporation Street, Beaver, PA 15009—Attention: Heather N.

Upcoming Events-Mark your Calendar



World Day of Prayer
for Vocations
May 17, 2017



Join hundreds of single Catholics of all ages at the National Catholic Singles Conference, May 19th—21st, held at the DoubleTree Pittsburgh-Greentree in Pittsburgh. The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, prayer, food, fellowship and more! Space is limited so register now! For more information and to register, please visit: www.NationalCatholicSingles.com. Use promo code NCSCPA to receive a special discount. Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 888-267-8885, Ext. 4.

St. Mary Church 608 High Street - Freeport, PA 16229

“RED GERANIUM FLOWERS FOR PENTECOST”

To celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 4th, we would like to decorate the sanctuary here at St. Mary's with beautiful red geraniums — brilliant red— like the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church, and following our Masses on June 4th, those flowers designated for the church will be planted around the church grounds and will continue to adorn the area throughout the summer as a reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence. What a beautiful way to celebrate the Church's birthday and, at the same time, beautify our church grounds all summer long. In lieu of geraniums, you may also make a monetary donation towards additional Pentecost decorations. It is our joyful intention to “splash” the church in a flood of “red” in celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and in doing so, the birth of the Christian Church. As usual, we will acknowledge all plants donated in memory of... in honor of... or, to the glory of God... in the church bulletin.

If you would like to make a contribution, please complete the form below and either drop it in the collection basket, or send it to the Parish Office **no later than Sunday, May 28th.**



“RED GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST” ORDER FORM

_____ RED GERANIUMS..... AT \$2.50 EACH..... = \$ _____

In honor of _____ by _____

In honor of _____ by _____

In memory of _____ by _____

In memory of _____ by _____

To the glory of God by _____

Ordered by: _____ Phone _____

_____ I would like to take my geraniums home (immediately following the 11:00 A.M. Mass).

_____ I would like to leave my plants to be planted on the church grounds.

_____ In lieu of sponsoring geraniums, I would like to make a donation towards additional Pentecost decorations - \$ _____

Please enclose this form with your donation in an envelope marked “Pentecost Flowers”, and place in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office **no later than Sunday, May 28th.**

***NOTE:** If you want to take your geraniums home, please pick them up immediately following the 11:00 A.M. Mass on Pentecost Sunday (June 4th).*



St. Mary, Mother of God

Celebrating our Ethnicity



St. Mary, Mother of God Family Ethnicity day allows us to share our heritage by sharing some great ethnic foods. Ethnicity day will be held on Pentecost "Saturday", June 3rd, in our Fellowship Hall, beginning at 5:00 P.M. (immediately following the 4:00 P.M. mass).

Our gathering will include homemade ethnic foods by those families and/or individuals attending. Any and all ethnic foods, including appetizers, salads, main course foods and desserts are welcome.

If you plan on attending our first annual family ethnic day, please fill out the registration form below and place in the collection basket or drop off at the Administration office.

Family Name: _____

Number attending: _____

Contact _____

Email: _____

Food Item you will be bringing _____

Please return no later than Friday, June 2nd

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MAY 20TH & 21ST, 2017

Altar Servers

*Extraordinary
Ministers
Of Holy Communion*

Lector

Organist

Cantor

Saturday - 4:00 P.M.

Brandon & Zachary Bowser
Kennedi & Lauren Clark

Dave Brestensky
Andrea Camerlo
Bill Girardi

Janice Meola

Verne Bergstrom

Alex Smith

Sunday - 8:30 A.M.

Samuel & Jacob Kristine
Ali & Ben Brestensky

Judy Bergstrom
Carol Carson
Rose Check

Lisa Boylan

Tom Koharchik

Tom Koharchik

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.

Celeste Beacom
Victor & Olivia Svitek
Jacob & Erin Schaeffer

Helen James
Andre Volek
Dan Lucovich

Bill Cogley

Dave Wesolosky

Choir

Mass Intentions
FOR THE WEEK

MASSES FOR THE 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY: May 13th
4:00 P.M. All Mothers—Living & Deceased

SUNDAY: May 14th
8:30 A.M. Christian Mothers—Living & Deceased (Christian Mothers)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners and All Mothers—Living & Deceased

MONDAY: May 15th
8:00 A.M. ♠Martha Kerr (Garrie & Kristine Davies)

TUESDAY: May 16th
8:00 A.M. Communion Service

WEDNESDAY: May 17th
8:00 A.M. ♠Jane Thompson (Ron & Peggy Thompson)

THURSDAY: May 18th
8:00 A.M. Communion Service

FRIDAY: May 19th
8:00 A.M. ♠Ambrose & Helen Gallagher (Ron & Linda Gallagher)

MASSES FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SATURDAY: May 20th
4:00 P.M. ♠Russell Stewart (The Pollicchio's)

SUNDAY: May 21st
8:30 A.M. ♠Family & Esther Smith (Daughter—Millie)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners



The Altar Bread and Wine
were donated for this week
in loving memory of
ZALEWSKI & ERSKINE FAMILIES
By
Jill & Tedd Zalewski

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in
loving memory of



JOHN COSTANTINO
By
Wife—Clare & Daughters

Collections

Offertory Collection for May 7th, 2017

No. of Envelopes Mailed Out: 592

No. of Envelopes Received: 220

Collection: Offertory - \$4,581.00

Electronic Payments (17) - \$1,035.00

Loose - \$593.00

Children - \$21.85

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Saturday, May 20th, 2017
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